



Monday 8 June 2026

Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg Lecture

Miguel John Versluys

The Achaemenid Persian Empire and World History

The rise of the Achaemenid Persian empire as a central nexus of markets and trade routes across Afro-Eurasia constituted a pivotal development, a crucial breakthrough, in the globalization in the ancient world.

Prof. Dr Miguel John Versluys is Professor of Classical & Mediterranean Archaeology at Leiden University's Faculty of Archaeology.

Date: Monday, 8 June 2026

Venue: Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden
and online (via WebinarGeek)

Time: Doors open at 16.30 hrs;
lecture 17.00–18.00 hrs, drinks afterwards

Admission: free – registration via the [RMO website](#)

Bi-annual Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg Lecture

This bi-annual lecture, a recurring event in memory of Prof. Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg (1944–2000), is organised by the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in cooperation with the National Museum of Antiquities and members of the Sancisi family.

Prof. H.W.A.M. Sancisi-Weerdenburg was Professor of Ancient History at Utrecht University. The first memorial lecture was held in June 2010 and initiated by her two children. All are welcome to attend!

